

## STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 Contact: David Spear (404) 631-1825

## North Fulton Area Transportation Summit Scheduled

ATLANTA -- State Transportation Board Member Brandon Beach and Georgia House Speaker Pro Tem Mark Burkhalter, R-Johns Creek, will host a wide-ranging forum on transportation and mobility issues in the North Fulton County area on Friday, December 11. The event, from 8:30 a.m., until Noon, will be held at The Retreat of Dunwoody and is open free-of-charge to all interested parties.

In addition to Beach and Burkhalter, numerous transportation officials will participate, including Transportation Board Chairman Bill Kuhlke, Jr., MARTA General Manager Dr. Beverly Scott, Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director Dick Anderson and the chairmen of the Georgia House and Senate Transportation Committees - Rep. Jay Roberts, R-Ocilla, and Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-Chickamauga.

"As we prepare for the General Assembly reconvening in January, I believe it is critical that everyone in North Fulton, all Georgians for that matter, fully understand the current state of transportation and what is at stake," Beach said. "The needs are enormous, in North Fulton and throughout Georgia. We have to begin making decisions for the long term. If we don't, the consequences will be dire for our continued growth and our quality of life."

"This will be one of the most difficult legislative sessions in many years," Burkhalter observed. "Much attention will be given to the State's worsening budget situation, the water issue and to education. But transportation is no less crucial to our future. We can't afford to lose focus of that."

The summit will feature panel discussions on transportation funding, transit in the North Fulton area, land use, overall state transportation needs and opportunities, and the role of public private partnerships in transportation.

The Retreat of Dunwoody is located on the bottom floor of the Hewlett Packard Building in the Perimeter Summit Complex at 1001 Summit Boulevard. Directions are available at <a href="www.villachristina.net">www.villachristina.net</a> or by calling (404) 303-0133.

The State Transportation Board determines policy and exercises general governance of Georgia's Department of Transportation. The Board's 13 members, representing each of the state's congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Georgia is the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending on transportation. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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